



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park
International Peace Park
Biosphere Reserve
World Heritage Site

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Glacier National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release
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Lightning Strikes Start Seven Fires In Glacier National Park *Suppression Efforts Underway.*

WEST GLACIER, MONT. – Recent lightning strikes in Glacier National Park have resulted in a number of confirmed wildland fire starts. Sparked by lightning in the early morning hours of July 16, seven fires were detected by Park fire staff stationed at lookouts. Suppression efforts are underway, and all fires are burning in backcountry areas of the park, and no visitor services, trails, or roads are closed. No structures or cultural resources are threatened by these fires.

The Wolf Gun Fire, north of Anaconda Creek, was reported at 4 P.M. Wednesday. This fire has grown to two acres in size, and is surrounded by areas previously burned by eight fires in the past twelve years. Park Officials have determined that the appropriate management response is to manage the fire using modified suppression strategies, using natural barriers (in this case areas that burned in prior fires) to contain the fire. The burned areas that surround the fire will likely limit the potential growth of the fire. There are no structures or other resources threatened in this remote area of the park. In making this decision, managers consider firefighter safety, values at risk in advance of the fire, and the impacts of mechanized tools to the resource when compared to the utilization of natural barriers, and high costs associated with staffing this remote fire. The fire is in an area that can be viewed by three fire lookouts who will monitor the fire's activity. Aerial mapping technology and observation from aircraft will also be utilized for monitoring purposes.

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Three small (less than a tenth of an acre) fires on Howe Ridge have been contained by Glacier National Park and Flathead National Forest Firefighters, and are expected to be controlled this afternoon.

Two observed fire starts reported by Swiftcurrent Lookout, Heavens Peak I and II, both in the basin to the north of Heavens Peak, have not shown any activity since their detection. The areas will be watched carefully for any sign of activity.

The Mount Edwards fire is burning in very steep mountainous slopes with natural barriers, such as rocky areas, which may prevent fire growth. The fire will be monitored for the next several days.

Fire Danger in Glacier National Park is high, with record-setting low moisture levels in dry vegetation. Forecasted weather conditions are for continued dry and hot weather.

Visitors are urged to use caution and extinguish all cigarettes when smoking, and are reminded that campfires are permitted only in designated campgrounds in established fire rings.

Current fire information is available at:

<http://www.nps.gov/glac/resources/fires.htm>

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